

Scarborough Community of Toronto
Chess News & Views

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Scarborough Chess Club

“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

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Happy New Year !!

Karpov Defeats Kasparov in Rapid Match



On December 19 and 20, 2002, in New York City, in the ABC studios in Times Square, Garry Kasparov (Russia), # 1 rated player in the world, and 13th FIDE World Champion, played a 4-game match of rapid chess (25 minutes + 10 sec. increments) with 12th FIDE World Champion, Anatoly Karpov (Russia).

It was generally expected that Kasparov would win, but Karpov had been playing excellent rapid chess in recent tournaments, and so the outcome was far from certain.

In Game 1, Karpov was forced to give up the exchange, but had 2 pawns as compensation, and annotators have said he had a quite playable game if he had found the right plan. But he couldn't make progress, and Kasparov picked off his pawns and won the 1st game.

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Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Ave.

(one block east of Woodbine Ave./Cosburn Ave. intersection, in former East York)

In Game 2, Kasparov went a pawn up and seemed to be in control again. But Karpov is known for his defensive skills, and when the players got down to incremental time, Kasparov missed a few winning moves, and Karpov put the pressure on Kasparov by threatening a King hunt on the back rank. Believing he was in trouble, Kasparov sacrificed his Queen. Though the position looked bad for Kasparov, commentators say he might have been able to hold the position. But under the time pressure, Kasparov dropped a full piece ! So the match was tied at the end of day 1.

The next day, in Game 3, Karpov showed fine form and outplayed Kasparov in the late middle game, and went on to win the game, going ahead 2-1.

The fourth game saw Kasparov trying to gain some kind of advantage to tie the match, but the game ended drawn by agreement. So Karpov came out victorious 2.5 – 1.5.

Prague Unity Agreement Hits a Snag

This agreement envisions one side of the draw as Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), current World Champion, against Peter Leko (Hungary), who won the Dortmund Candidates tournament. The other side of the draw sees 2002 FIDE World Champion, Ruslan Ponomarev (Ukraine) meeting Garry Kasparov (Russia), the 13th FIDE World Champion, and # 1 ranked player in the world. The winners of each of these matches was to play for the undisputed unified FIDE World Championship.

But as often happens, the deal is hanging on the details. FIDE had shortened the time controls for its World Championship to game in 90 min. + 30 sec. increments from move 1. Ponomarev wants therefore, to see this time control in his match with Kasparov. Kasparov has been strong in defending the classical time control of 40 moves in 2 hrs., 20 moves in 1 hr, and 30 min. sudden death. Time will tell if there is some acceptable compromise here. The second, and perhaps more difficult point is what happens if the match is tied. Ponomarev wants draw-odds to the champion. He stated : “ In previous World Championships, if the match ended in a draw, the champion retained the crown. Now, however, due to some reason this rule has been omitted in the regulations of my duel with Kasparov, while it exists and is valid in the parallel semi-final between Vladimir Kramnik, a Russian, and Peter Leko, a Hungarian. I believe this difference is not accidental. “ FIDE has used the new tie-break rapid/blitz games to break a tie in their World Championships.

Yasser Seirawan, a moving force behind the Prague Unity Agreement is concerned. He said : “ If Ponomarev refuses to join the unity cycle, we are back to square one and a new plan will have to be considered. “ I guess we’ll see if negotiations lead to any acceptable compromise.

2002 World Junior / Girl’s Under 20 Championships

These tournaments took place in Goa, India from the 8th to 21st of December 2002. It was a 13 round swiss. The World Junior Champion was GM Levon Aronian of Armenia. Our own 2002 Canadian Junior Champion, IM Stephen Glinert, finished 33rd/88 players, with 7/13 pts.

The Girl's Under 20 saw Zhao Xue of China and Humpy Koneru of India, last year's champion, tie with 10.5/13 pts. But Zhao Xue took the title on tie-break.

2003 Toronto Closed

This will be a 10-player round robin in 2 sections : premier and reserves; ranked E.P. ratings as of Feb. 3; beginning Feb. 18; EF \$ 60 – cheques dated Feb. 10, payable to Martin Jaeger (TD/Org.), # 1201 755 York Mills Rd., Toronto, M3B 1X5; include phone no., rating and date; no phone or conditional or revocable entries; entries close (received) Feb. 14; Sites – Tuesdays at High Park CC @ 5:45 PM & Saturdays at Scarborough CC @ 1:35 PM; 35 moves/100 min, game/60 min.; Prizes – 100% EF (2/3Pr.; 1/3 Res. ??); bring equipment; Premier FIDE rated; Info – 416-445-9293; please disseminate.

SCC Moves Weekend Meeting Day In New Year

Round 2 of the former Sunday swiss was played Dec. 8. But in the New Year, SCC is changing its weekend meeting day to 1:30 pm SATURDAYS. The tournament will run to 6:00 pm. The new year will start on Sat., January 11, 2003, with Rd. 3 of the current tournament.

SCC Starts New Tournament on Thursdays in New Year

The Club Championship (top group – round robin; lower group – Swiss) is continuing with 25 players entered. Round 6 was played Thurs., Dec. 19. The club will reopen on Thursdays, on January 9, 2003, with Round 7.

Also on January 9, SCC will, depending on new members attending, start a brand new swiss tournament to run concurrently on Thursdays with the existing club championship. This is in light of the Dutton CC closing Dec. 21, 2002; SCC wants to try to accommodate those DCC members who may want to continue weekly rated chess tournaments in the New Year at SCC on Thursdays. We hope this will be convenient for DCC members (some former SCC members) looking to join/re-join SCC.

A - Members/ non-members may contact Bob Armstrong, ed. , directly, at bobarm@sympatico.ca or through SCC e-mail, to :

1. Be added to the free e-mail list; 2. Submit content (fact, opinion, criticism, recommendations!).
- B – An item in any language may be submitted for publication, if accompanied by an English translation.
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